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May 5, 2010

P R E S S R E L E A S E

Eni F.H. Faleomavaega Chairman

The Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific and the Global Environment

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Washington, D.C.

FALEOMAVAEGA INTRODUCES H.RES.1321 CALLING FOR THAILAND'S PEACEFUL RESOLUTION OF ONGOING POLITICAL PROBLEMS BASED ON PRIME MINISTER ABHISIT'S ROADMAP

The Chairman of the Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific and the Global Environment, Rep. Eni F.H. Faleomavaega, yesterday introduced H.Res.1321, which expresses the House of Representative's support for U.S.-Thailand relations and encourages the country to resolve its ongoing political problems peacefully based on Prime Minister Abhisit's recently-announced roadmap. That plan calls on all parties to join together in upholding the monarchy, on the government to carry out economic and political reforms, and on the nation to create an independent committee to investigate the casualties resulting from the clash of April 10, 2010, all with the aim of holding new elections on November 14, 2010.

"The response from most quarters to the Prime Minister's suggestions has been positive. The plan offers a process that I believe can serve as the basis for an amicable end to the dispute. H.Res.1321 is meant to encourage that process, to demonstrate America's commitment to Thailand and its people and to convey our sincere hope that Thailand returns to democracy, stability and the rule of law," Faleomavaega said.

"Thailand is one of United States' closest friends and most dependable allies. Ours is a partnership steeped in history. Indeed, the first treaty we concluded with an Asian nation was with Thailand in 1833, with the signing of the Treaty of Amity and Commerce between Siam and the United States. In 1954, we forged a military alliance, and in 2003 the United States designated Thailand a major non-NATO ally. Thailand contributed troops and support for U.S. military operations in Korea, Vietnam, the Persian Gulf, Afghanistan and Iraq."

"Thailand is also a major trading partner of the United States, a regional leader, a force for stability in Southeast Asia and a country with which we share common values and interests. The United States has always appreciated Thailand's many international contributions, and we respect and admire its unique culture," Faleomavaega added.

"Of course, only the Thai people can chart their way toward settlement of the conflict. As a close friend of Thailand, however, the United States should, I believe, offer its support and demonstrate its concern. This resolution does just that, encouraging all sides to address the country's political problems peacefully and democratically, based on the reconciliation plan offered by the Prime Minister."

"I introduced this resolution on the day Thailand marks "Chattru Mongkhon." It is on this day that the country commemorates the ascension to the throne of His Majesty, King Bhumibol Adulyadej. It is a day when all Thai people pay their respects to His Majesty and wish him a long, healthy and happy life. I can think of no better way for the United States to honor His Majesty and the people of Thailand than to support peaceful reconciliation and for the House to pass this resolution," Faleomavaega concluded.

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